

## And will give me bread to eat and clothes to wear... and Hashem will be a G-d to me. (28:20, 21)

The *Baal HaTanya* and the *Kedushas Levi*, *Horav Levi Yitzchak M'berditchev*, were *mechutanim*, relatives by marriage, through the marriage of their grandchildren. At the wedding, which these two *tzaddikim* graced by their presence, the *Baal HaTanya* offered a "*l'chayim*" to his *mechutan*: "*L'Chayim, mechutan!* Hashem *Yisborach* should help us with *gashmius* and *ruchnius*, material and spiritual needs," said the *Baal HaTanya*. The *Berditchever* quickly asked, "How is it that you ask for material needs prior to spiritual needs?" "Is it any different than *Yaakov Avinu*, who first asked for bread and then asked that Hashem be a G-d to him?" responded the *Baal HaTanya*. The *Berditchever* asked, "How can you compare *Yaakov Avinu's gashmius* to ours. Certainly his material needs were not of the same nature as ours." "You may be right," said the *Baal HaTanya*, "but how do you compare our *ruchnius* to his?"

While this story may be anecdotal, why did *Yaakov Avinu* really prioritize his material needs over his spiritual ones? In truth, *Yaakov's* material request was spiritual in nature, since his material needs were entirely sublimated towards serving Hashem. Whatever he had, and whatever he needed, were oriented towards one goal - to serve Hashem. Having bread to eat and clothes to wear facilitated *Yaakov's* spiritual growth.